

HENRY DARGER -

" THE VIVIAN
GIRLS
IN CHICAGO "

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VOLUME
TWELVE

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used the reflector and was surprised to discover there were no demons in there either. This discovery however did not cause them to be over confident for they knew demons are foxy and very de cieving besides treacherous.

And demons could flee from one or two places and crowd in another, and come back when you're off guard.

With the P also now drawn out into the hall the reflector was again used but there were no demons in the hall either.

All the masses were already in progress, the "Jewels of the Madonna" had been sung twice by Penrod and his sisters and preparations made to prevent the spirits from returning.

Yet where did they go? Was this a trick on the part of the demons?

Angeline tested the Edison in the music room.

It worked normally playing as it should outside of that a strange hush had come over the whole floor, while they were pondering over the greatly desired

situation the boy and girl scouts arrived and Violet explained the Octopus' plans. They readily agreed to it. Then Violet explained what had occurred.

"I believe the demons have been driven from this second floor and fled to their companions either on the top or the first floor" declared

Jennie Turner said decidedly "They are in a hole, but more desperate. The main problem is whether they'll come back if the Paloo is moved down to the first floor

or up to the third- are the spirits driven out of the suit of mail images?"

"The images being solid objects the reflector didn't reveal that to us" said gemma Vizzani "no one dares go near them."

"I'll take a chance, and if anything happens the rest of you could rescue me" declared Marycile Masters.

"No you don't" Violet put in sternly "I am possessed by angels and you are not yet I don't dare do it no one goes near those suits of mail unless

it can be proven some way there's no demons in them. The suits of mail shields them from the effects of the Palo as they're not exposed. They were the most dangerous objects in the building if they are not still."

"But what could those things do?" asked Marjorie.

"They'd either hit you with those terrible weapons, or grab you up by the neck and strangle you" answered Joyce. If any one is caught by their throat rescue is im-

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possible, except my
miracle."

But unwarily little
Margaret Masters came
out of a side room and
walked close to the
first image of a knight.
She passed it and
came to the second.

The others stood
horror stricken, unable
to utter a sound ex-
pecting her to be
struck down or lifted
up and strangled,
but nothing at
all happened.

She walked closer
to the third im-
age dangerously
close, but not one

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made the slightest
supernatural movement.
When she reached
directly under the
last one, there were
thirty of them, she
swung around, and came
softly towards her sister
and friends.

Evidently the images
also were free of
evil spirits, nothing
in the second floor
hall being possessed
any more.

But the little Virgins
met a new surprise
just the same. It was
evident the spirits
turned the stairs
leading from the

second to the first up
side down and the
same with those lead-
ing to the third seek-
ing to trap them

But the demons
seemed to have for-
gotten that at the rear
of the building was
a cylinder coming
down fire escape and
two of the little
Vilians went down
this were out in
the grounds in a
hurry and got back
in by the main
entrance.

Violet placed her
foot on the stairs
muttered the most

important prayer and
both flight of stairs
righted themselves

Evans and the others
brought the Paloo down
in a hurry near the
entrance stood the awful
foreboding hall-tree.

"Is that thing really
material, or a demon
transformed?" whisper-
ed the Octopus.

"I don't know" said
Violet "But I believe
that is what killed
Paulina, as they say
she was mean it
when it attacked

her." I'd like to direct
the Paloo at it first"
Maryrie was going

to approach it but the Octopus held her back. The Paloo was placed into position and prepared for working. But this time the reflector showed no demons in the hall.

"Perhaps they are gone" thought Violet. "I wonder why? I'm sure we are not winning a victory so easy as all this."

She reversed the reflector to take in the whole hall but nothing could be seen. She came down from the platform and spoke of the

matter to the Octopus. "I don't believe they're gone" he said. "They may be deceiving you by rendering themselves invisible so you can't see them."

"No that couldn't be" she answered. "The reflector reveals them no matter how invisible they try to render themselves." Violet herself was not afraid of the hall tree though she knew it was to be treated as a strange dangerous enemy, so holding open a container of Holy Water she advanced

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twards it saying as
she went:

"I'm not afraid of you
what ever evil spirit
you are, and I think
you'll be sorry pretty
soon that you might
have been the one that
caused Paulinius death.
You can't harm me, but
I would destroy you
if I could, but I'm
going to make you
go at all costs."

Then to the surprise
of every one a strange
unearthly laugh seem-
ed to come from the
hall tree that was
not nice to hear
and the upper part

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of it wavered. Violet was
half way across the room
when suddenly a wall
of glass, rose mysteriously
before her and stopped
her progress.

Through the glass
she could see a face
resembling a witches
form in the wall
across from the hall
tree and it sneered
at her because she
appeared a weak little
girl, and this angered
her.

Although the glass
wall obliged her to
halt she instantly
drew one of her
revolvers and fired

at it point blank but with no result. Then to the surprise of all the hall tree changed to the form of the well often described half *hedioris* woman, and half bird. It was of enormous size twice taller than even Jack Evans and thisfeat the banshee had miraculously accomplished to the surprise and horror of all.

And yet despite the transformation it was observed that the hall tree rose with it.

Whatever the

creature was, it was frightfully enraged at the success of the little girls in the library and second floor hall. He or his followers had known nothing of the attempt of the little Virgins to progress down here until they came.

The fierce creature knew however that every fiend down here was likely to be conquered too unless he made a fierce fight, or done to them what had been done to *Pculinia*, so he spread his huge feathery wings, and

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nose in the air with savage unearthly howls, and shrieks, flying directly towards the little girls.

The wall of glass had disappeared the hideous transformation took place.

Violet and her sisters had not expected any such transformations as this and in her excitement, she had forgotten to know the Holy Water.

Some of her sisters started towards the balloon Holy water sprayer to shower the frightful and

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dangerous phenomena.

The size of the creature made his iron fastened arms dangerous like wise his big claws. but violet and her sisters were not afraid when it came darting towards them with its lower talons outstretched and its long fingered hands open to grab any one of the little girls it came to first.

At the same time every suit of mail image started various motions, and dances, while some fought with each other. The little girls felt sur-

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that the angels that possessed them would protect them from all harm.

But Jack Evans did not know that fact and became alarmed at their seeming danger.

So he gave a sudden leap, and leaped full upon the back of the great phenomenon.

Then began a desperate struggle. The creature appeared as strong as Jack Evans and in size it was more than twice as big as Evans but he at the first

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leap bore the creature to the floor, but it got free and wrestled with Evans, who tripped and fell, and then it beat him down with its great wings whenever he attempted to rise.

Evans however was too tough and strong to be easily whipped or injured by any demon and he managed to get in a blow that sent the banshee sailing across the hall.

At that critical moment Maryrie Masters passed close to the

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enraged spirit and hurled Holy water full in its face. The demon shivered and howled and he now realized it was hopeless to oppose the power of the little girls and knew that his only escape lay in instant action. If he must avoid more Holy water.

So he quickly flew twards the Hall tree. Our friends did not know of course what the Banshee was about to do.

They saw it tremble an instant

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and then disappear, the Hall tree with it. and although they waited expectantly for some minutes for the spirit to show itself again it did not come back.

"Seems to me" said the Octopus in a cheerful voice "that we have conquered the wicked Banshee more quickly than we expected to."

"Don't say 'we.' Marjorie did it" cried Violet Hurrah for Marjorie

"Well" remarked the Octopus to Marjorie "your efforts has certainly saved us a

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a lot of trouble, and we must all thank Jack Evans too, for making such a good fight. The strange double shaped phenomenon had a fiends evil disposition in it and that made the monster banshee dangerous."

Evans was looking sad because the bird like darlons had torn his new clothes but he bowed with much dignity at this well deserved praise.

At this moment a queer thing happened which was unexpected and apparently out of

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the ordinary as it didn't happen to this all before, and they all thought it couldn't.

The floor of the great long broad hall on which they stood suddenly began to tip.

Before it had been flat and level but now it became a slant and with a strange nerve-wracking grinding noise it shivered like an earthquake then the slant going from one end of the hall to the other grew steeper and steeper until none of the party could manage to stand upon

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it. As it continued they all slowly slid down the length of the floor some beneath or between the knightly images, which remained in their position being fastened to the floor, the east end of the hall now being under them, and then after a moments stopping it began again its gradual tip lengthwise, but much more faster, and it became evident that the whole vast hall, like the dome room had done was slowly turning upside down but in a lengthwise not,

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sideways motion. As said before only the suits of mail images kept in place remaining in their own position, but the pictures swung upside down or slide off, as well as the window curtains.

They continued to slide down the badly tilting floor but as the hall continued to tilt they slid down to the end wall and found themselves at the end wall.

But the motion continued slowly making them slide down the wall towards the ceiling some bumping

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against one of the immense chandeliers which like everything else was now upside down.

The lengthwise turning movement now stopped and the extensive hall became stationary though there were now strange unaccountable noises and the chandeliers (at least) acted so queerly that our friends wisely avoided them.

Looking up at the floor they saw the apparition suspended in the air at the very top, which had once been the floor.

"Ah" said the creature.

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grinning down at them, "the way to conquer is to act and he who acts promptly is sure to win. This makes a very good prison from which I am sure you cannot escape. We could have turned this hall upside down all of a sudden but by the authorities of Heaven we are not allowed to injure or kill you little girls or your brother. But if one of you who has the power to do it rights the hall again it'll return to its former position all of a sudden and

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it'll kill you all. Please remember if the chandlers get you by the throat — and also please amuse yourselves in any way you like but I must beg you to excuse me as I have business in another part of this place with my companions.

Saying this he made the double hex sign at them, bowed his foul head with mock politeness and disappeared from view and oh 'Phew' what an awful smell he left.

It was a good thing the suit of mail images

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was fastened to the floor or some of them would have fallen down on their heads.

"Well I declare" said Jennie "we must peg one for the demon for he has trapped us very, very cleverly."

"It's rather crowded at this part of the hall" explained Violet "because the movement of the hall threw us down here at the east end. But if we spread out and keep as quiet as possible we could think what is best to be done. But we must avoid these crazy

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chandeliers."

"Dear dear," wailed Margaret Masters. "I wish I had taken my crucifix along."

"If I only had the power of St Michael I'd show the fiends something" sighed the Octopus.

"Don't you suppose he could get us out of this trap?" asked Margaret anxiously.

"Well we will have to try ourselves with God's help" laughed George. "Violet dear do you think you could risk the prayer that will return

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the hall to its former place."

"If the demon tells the truth I wouldn't dare" she said.

But the Octopus took the suggestion seriously and so did Evans. They talked it over but at first they could find no way to get out.

At the east end of the hall there were no windows or doorway.

The entrance to the west was jammed because of the phenomena and if you could get out the west end windows you had the dangerous

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Elm tree to face.

But the little girls thought they could plan a way to get out without risking the tree.

They talked this over and soon planned an attempt to reach one of the side windows high up that faced the south where they hoped to get out.

First Evans stood up against the wall which was high and bracing his foot on the stem of a small but harmless chandelier then the Octopus climbed over him and braced

against the wall with his feet on Evans shoulder the priest came next but when Father Carney got on his shoulders the very wall did a very queer thing that upset them all.

Down they came tumbling in a heap upon the little girls standing near, and although no one was much hurt it was a bad mix up, and Evans who was at the bottom almost lost his turn before he could get to his feet again. And he positively refused to try what

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he called the pyramid
act again, and as the
Octopus was now con-
ced they could not reach
the window in that
manner the attempt
was abandoned.

"But something must
be done" said the
Octopus and then he
turned to Violet and
asked:

"Cannot the angels
who possess you little
girls help us escape
from this crazy
hall?"

"The powers of our
angels are limited"
was the reply. They,
or even I and

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my sisters can do
only what our Dear
Blessed Sord gives us
power to do, but noth-
ing else. I could try
to turn the hall back
into place if you like
but it's a great chance
if that apparition tells
the truth - you however
are a wizard at fight-
ing devils and other evil
spirits, and a wizard should
be able to do anything
I'm sure."

"You little girls forget
that I have not the
means or tools and a
wizard without tools
is as helpless as a
carpenter without a

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hammer or saw.
"Dont give up" plead-
ed Mary orie "cause
if we cant get out
of this queer prison
we will all die of
thirst or starvation"

"Dont talk of such
dreadful events" said
her sister "we came
here to drive out
the wicked banshees
didn't we?"

"yes for the sake
of Mr. Esemann"
said violet and
her sisters together
"and here we are
captured by the
banshees and the
only way to get

10820

out is up there in
plain sight" walked
little Margaret wip-
ing her eyes on her
hand her chief-

"flesh" called Evans
with a loud deep growl
"Give the Octopus time
to think"

"He has plenty of
time" said Father
Carney. "What he needs
is to find the mys-
tery of this

After all it was
violet who came to
their rescue and the
ability to save them-
was almost as much
a surprise to the
little girl, as it was

to her sisters and friends. She had been secretly testing the powerful intercessions of that powerful prayer given her, and unselfishly and righteously experimenting with it.

In various ways, even since she started on their eventful adventure. At different times

At different days or hours she had stolen away from the others of her party and in solitude had tried to find out what St. Michael would do and would not do.

But she and her sisters are so highly favored by God, she discovered that prayer would do anything, but she also learned somethings about the prayer which even her sisters and friends did not suspect she knew.

For one thing she had remembered that when St. Michael appeared and clasped her lovingly in his arms, he had told her what he could do to help her, in her sore needs, and by thinking hard she had finally recalled the

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way in which such favors would be granted. Better than this however was the discovery that St Michael would grant her three wishes a day.

All she need do was close her right eye, wriggle her left finger, make the sign of the cross, say the "Our Father", "Hail Mary", the Apostles Creed, and the Acts of Love, Hope, Faith, and then draw a long deep breath, and make her wish.

Yesterday she had worked for the strong inspiration of temptation to do a very holy

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thing for God, and instantly got the inspiration and done it. To day she had saved her daily wish in case she might need it in an emergency and the time had now come when she must use the wish to enable her to escape with her sisters and friends from the hall prison on which the evil spirit had caught them.

So without telling them what she intended to do for she had only used the wish once and could not be too certain how powerfully the prayer

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might effect the famous archangel. Violet closed her right eye, made the sign of the cross, said the prayers as devotedly as was in her power and wriggled her little left finger on left hand, and drew a long breath, and wished with all her might and faith.

The next moment the hall began to revolve again, but this time sideways, not lengthwise as before, but much more slowly than the other time, and by degrees

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they all slid to the side wall, and down the wall to the floor, all but Margaret who was so astonished if not bewildered that she clung to a chandelier that she had grasped.

When the long hall was in its proper position again, and the others stood firmly upon the floor of it.

They looked far up to the ceiling and saw the little girl swinging from the chandelier.

Fortunately for her she had not grasped any of the possessed

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ones or she would have been choked to death, or thrown violently down the length of the hall.

"Good gracious!" gasped Angelina. "How ever will you get down?"

"Wont the hall keep turning?" asked Margaret.

"I hope not, I believe it has stopped for good," said Violet.

"I have put some mattresses under meath" she cried.

"Dunry my arms are straining"

"They did!"

"Now stand from under so no one

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"will get hurt" shouted Marjorie, and as soon as they had obeyed this request she let go the chandellier and came tumbling down heels over head and twisting and turning in a very exciting manner.

Plump she fell on the thick soft matresser and nose to her feet as they ran to her.

Suddenly as they reached her there arose a most harsh clamor of sound not only in the hall but through out the building from first to

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third floor that swelled and echoed on every side until they were nearly deafened by the racket and had to put their fingers to their ears to keep the noise out.

It changed in sound like the firing of a thousand big cannon in the building, then it changed to the rolling as of mighty thunder then it gradually subsided like the roar of countless breakers on a rugged seashore then renewing again to a terrific discord like the dread-

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ful sound in a boiler factory. They all stood in the middle of the hall but as the frightful noise changed to that of the terrific Grand Church Organ Crash did no harm they started for one of the rooms into which their Paloo had rolled during the upside down prank of the hall.

The Paloo was then pushed out while gradually the awful noise after changing to a rattling thundering clamor like lead pipes pounding against sheets of iron and tin

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gradually subsided fol-
lowed by an unusual
stillness. Then to their
surprise and disgust
came a phenomena
they did not expect.

It was the coming
of a horrid odor that
was very unusual.

Did you ever find
a dead rat full of
foul smelling maggots
and badly decayed
in a small closed
room? Well I did.
And did you ever
pour strong lye upon
it? I did and wow
what a reeket.

Well if you want
the most horrid

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smell of your lifetime
do so, and get skunked
at the same time, but
I advise you don't try
it.

Well that was the
kind of smell that
penetrated the hall,
coming like a strong
pink upon cloud
enveloping them
all.

To avoid the smell
they all raced up
the steps to the 2nd
floor but the fumes
followed after them
spreading throughout
the building into
every room even
the attic unaccompanied

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by a mighty din
as if in every room
and hall an enormous
crowd of men
and women were quar-
reling at the highest
pitch of their voices.

The pungent smell
grew so strong, and
the noise so unbearable
that the whole
party were routed
unto the basement,
where both also
followed them.

They even had
to flee from the
basement into the
open grounds outside
before they could escape
the serpent odors and in-

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their excitement they
ran too close to the big
dangerous elm tree which
nearly had them all.
Its branches acted
very crazy as they
escaped, and one branch
bending downward
struck the Octopus
on the back like the
blow of a whip send-
ing him flying
most disgracefully
along the ground, the
same branch at
the same time catch-
ing Jennie Violet
and Angeline on the
back of their heads
knocking them un-
conscious. The Octopus

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who was not injured had a difficult time to rescue them. He was though scared. He was almost caught by some of the branches as he managed to pull the unconscious little girls to safety.

Some of the smaller branches switched him like an angry parent does a very naughty boy but he got away and carried them out of reach as the rest retreated a safer distance.

"I sometimes really believe if we only

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could conquer the evil condition of that tree we will then have solved the problem" ex claimed the Octopus "maybe that tree is the root of all this trouble."

How? asked Father Carney "It was the Puloo worked against it."

When the three little girls were recovered and found not injured that subject was suggested to them and their sisters.

"We tried that before you came" said Unyeline "It has no effect upon it. whatever. It only

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works inside of rooms
not against solid ob-
jects."

"How long will this
crazy gas attack continue?"
asked the Octopus.

"It's hard to tell" said
Catherine "But we could
out wit them if we only
had our gasmasks"

"Gas masks?"

"Yes."

"What are those? never
heard of them before."

"Something you put
over your face to keep
out gas."

"To keep out gas?"

"Yes"

"What are they like?"
They shape like

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helmets, but are very
ugly to look at, have
something connecting
for the nose and mouth
that looks like an ele-
phants trunk. We and
all people who live
in the territory use
them so as not to breath
in Volcanic gas."

"Oh never yet saw any
thing like this in our
country. (Not unless world was
no one) And you have
none here?"

"We have but they'll
only fit me, Pernod
and my sisters, they
are too small for you
or the rest."

"Aches on the luck

and the demons too" muttered the Octopus under his breath but the little girls heard "cursing demons won't help us any" declared Jennie seriously "What we really got to do is to act. But you said about the root of all this trouble may be in the tree. I thought the second floor library was."

"So did I" answered the Octopus. "Sally Fielder said she was when we visited her yesterday in the hospital where she's staying for

"softy's sake." Could that be possible? Ah shaw, that's not so. The most difficult of all propositions really is that Elm tree. We found that out by experience."

Violet suddenly thought of that particular wish but then she remembered, that had failed in the case so far of expelling the demons.

And she also remembered that had not been promised. The Octopus plun about every mass in the rooms and children

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too receiving Holy Com
munion at every Mass
had been violently
repulsed by the de
mons who produced
overthowing pheno-
menons.

Though it was very
strange to think of
there was one thing
about the Elm tree
that struck them as
decidedly queer and
horrid.

If any little girls
and only them
dared stand close to
it long but not
near enough to be
caught, a pheno-
menon would occur

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that would first totally
derude them, and then
send a dangerous fire
phenomenon at them
so they had wisely
moved off to a more
safe distance.

To find out whether
the building was
clear of gas, Penrod
took the chances of
going in.

He found the gas
gone but what he
saw astonished and
greatly embarrassed
him. A crowd of
naked children all
girls were in the
hall. He called to
his sister excitedly

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who went in hurriedly but it was no phantom of phantom children. Their girl scouts had gone into the building, and not intending to injure them in any other way, the demons, by a vanish- ing phenomena made their clothe mysteriously disappear.

They dared not go out as Perrou the men and the priests were in the grounds outside.

At the sight being desirous to go to their keep violet stan- led to enter the for-

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bidden hall but just before she crossed the threshold strong unseen hands reached out at her and pushed her away.

But she and her sisters became defiant and desperately de- cided to make a forced entrance.

It was agreed that Anyeline and Jennie should go in first.

They had no dif- ficulty in passing under the arch of the entrance way.

They proceeded hope fully but Cath- erine following them

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looked carefully at the suits of mail and felt discomfited since they were acting up.

Then her other sisters seeing how easily the test of the entrance which had been met, decided to go too, but those hidden hands seized Catherine by the neck strangling her until her tongue protruded and when she struggled in that situation other unseen hands seized her by the hair and dragged her out but letting her

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be strangled until she was senseless.

The unseen hands repelled Jennie and Angelina too, but without strangling or hair pulling.

Vicky managed to get at least one step further in there than her sisters, but her success proved nothing but similar strangulation and throwing out.

Despite this they afterwards all tried in a body, and three times they were all strangled to almost senselessness and thrown out, but they kept on

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wounds courage and then they finally by sheer dint of courage won out.) the naked child scouts were led upstairs to the second floor which now alone was free of the demons.

Had the little girls even known that the attic in the library was even moved off the floor to the attic again (which I'm sorry to say is now possessed) the demons would return. But they had no intent on of doing so.

The situation was a difficult one.

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about these child scouts as there was no way to get them any clothes and if one, only one of the little 'uns, or any one else left the building the demons would go gain ground.

You kids will have to remain naked in here until some one can get clothes - you should not have entered here without our knowing it then the demons would not have done this to you you remain in the attic for a while. And there are forty

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eight of you. If there are any one of you who can wear the clothes of one of us we will lend you them but one of you will have to face the difficulty of finding out and marking down the various sizes each wears. I'll write down the request for handing the money and send one of you who cannot speak English so that the clerk will not be able to question you. Then the rest of you hike up to the attic and

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remain there until you receive your new clothes. Then I have some plan for you!"

One of the girlscouts was the size of Jenny so she gave her some of her clothes and then while she took the list preparatory of going out to get the goods the rest slowly flocked to the attic.

Then as the girlscouts went out by the rear way Violet said to the Octopus as Webber George went upstairs, she rejoicing the demon fighter outside:-

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"I believe the old demons have tricked us. They have truly been driven from the second floor but they still occupy the third and first floors, and also the grounds. We've got the stations of the cross completed in the grounds but they only keep the powers of darkness from their own territory and don't help any other part. But this tree" she pointed to the Elm tree as she spoke "I believe is the main source of all the trouble. I thought we didn't say

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anything before, we did try many experiments with it and got defeated at every turn. We thought it was a hollow-tree like the one at Mc Call's Run but it is not. It acts the same way but is far more dangerous. And my sisters believe this tree is put in this condition by the demons to make it keep every person wandering in from entering the building through the main entrance.

Other trees do not seem to be so bad though sixteen others are also possessed. We

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had hoped to drive the fiends from this particular tree but to no avail."

"Why don't you destroy it?" asked the Octopus. Violet giggled, the others smiled grimly.

"I can't be done" she said. "The demons won't let you, and besides the main problem is that Mr. Seeman objects. But if we could get him to consent, the demons will stop you. Even nitro glycerine won't go off if you throw it, as the demons seem to have a power to prevent it from exploding."

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and for any other purpose it is extremely dangerous to approach near the tree."

At that moment there came to her a (large) loud call from 3 other Carney followed by a strange sound apparently from the roof.

"Something happened in the attic" he cried. I heard a funny crunching bumping noise and a lot of screams."

At that same instant Webber George who was always with them came running up.

The girl scouts are trapped in some phe monema in the attic"

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he shouted. Violet and her sisters and even all the others raced into the building and up the three flights of stairs which seemed to slowly follow them. They reached the third floor nevertheless and were able to get into the attic despite the trouble, but to their surprise the whole interior was bottom up and the girl scouts all bewildered and excited. The men and boys had remained down below.

"Well this is the limit!" exclaimed Violet.

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and her sisters as one. The demons confound them have tricked us added Jennie. "Since the removal of that alter they now possess the attic. All of you girls get down to the second floor into the library where it's safe. There are no demons there."

They obeyed hastily for fear of worse crazy phenomena.

It was more than an hour before the girl scout came back with a kiddie cart racer loaded with clothes which all the thirty nine soon put on with

1035-8

great relief. Pennod had said several times to his sisters in a warning tone:

"You'd better look out the demons and other evil spirits don't, don't do that trick on you, and before us boys and men too, or to all of us at once. What they did to the girls' scouts they could and would do to you girls, and us too at the same time."

This got poor violet and her sisters to worrying, and the others too, and the gloomy outlook made

1035-8

them dread to leave the library.

In the meantime there was something new which violet and her sisters did not know of, and which they and the Octopus would give anything to know.

There was a boy of about ten years old, living at 1406 Webster ave, who gifted by Heaven could truly show the little girls how to make the evil spirits wish they had never come to Mr. Seemanns house.

It is father, a very holy man, had been a good one at that too but

10360

he had gone to his reward, and the boy had only his mother and sister.

Though only ten, he was the size of a fourteen year old, powerfully built and unusually a bright prodigy at many things.

As he never bothered to read news or any paper or magazine he never knew of the events in Mr. Seesmans house at all.

Never heard any conversation and his mother had from being too busy had not told him

10361

"Mother dear" he said this very day the girl-scouts were rendered naked "I saw and read a very peculiar sign on the gate of a big building belonging to a Mr. George Adams Seesman. I could not understand it and read it three times and took a look at the building and grounds from outside. I was passing by to day with sus and a boy friend and I wrote it down on a piece of paper. It seems that magnificent house has details"

"His mother glanced

10362

at the paper and gasped. Recovering her self she said:

"Come my boy to the living room and I'll tell you all about it" and she did telling him all that the news papers said, and giving him a magazine full of the details which she had reserved and relating everything she had heard from the neighbors.

She didn't however tell about little Paulinia Flannigan the orphan kid on the seven holes,

10363

and the magazine didn't relate that either or show the pictures of the little Indians.

"I know what?" said his eight year old sister Nancy. "I'll get Father's book on possessed people, and houses. That may tell the mystery why the wicked evil spirit fool and cut out those good little girls and their brave helpers."

It took her about five minutes to find it, but she returned with it, quite a large volume in a red cover.

1036 4

"It was not where I thought it was but I got it," she said, and she gingerly laid it on the boy's lap.

He turned the pages eagerly but carefully and after some length of time, came to the pages written of European houses troubled, and how they were promptly cleared and for good but only by priests bishops, and saints persons.

These places had the symptoms of Resemann's house, some for thirty or

10365

forty years some not so severe or stubborn, others making Resemann's house a child's play in comparison.

He read and studied every one, just as he was finishing the last one, his sister said:

"I have a magazine here that tells more about those little Vinnan girls and shows a picture of them. I believe they're the prettiest kids ever born, and one of them is a twin to their mother."

He glanced at the picture and then he

10366

laughed scornfully.
"What's the matter?"
asked his sister feeling
slightly offended. Don't
you think so?"

"I think so?" he giggled
"Those ain't the Virian
kids. No kid is that
pretty. Somebody painted
pictures of angels and—"

"No no, those are the
little Virians," said
his mother "that can
easily be proved."

Her son was not
an unreasonable boy
and thinking deeply
for a moment he
finally said:

"Well if they are
them, then there's

10367

something from Hea-
ven about them. I've
heard a lots about
those little girls before
this Deserterman affair
and they certainly
are good kids. They
deserve my help, and
they'll certainly get
it." Then he laughed
again.

"Ha ha" he giggled
"I think of it, a flock
of devils being licked
and driven out of a
big house like that
by little girls. That
never did happen
before but won't it be
funny if it did. And
I'll see that it does

10368.

happem Ha Ha little
girls kicking out devils
wont the devils be mad.
ha ha ha"

"But" said nancy the
credit would be yours".

"not the way I'll plan
it. I hate them the
stinking hellish rats
and would love to
let the world know
who made history
by licking them
which never happen-
ed before."

"Why do you hate
the little girls and
call them rats?"
asked his sister
sadly.
"not the little

10369

girls, the devils, sis.
And it will be a lot
of fun to see them
work on the devils. And
and I'll see that they
do."

They would show
their "everlasting gra-
titude"

All I want for reward
is their success. If I
fail I am not worthy
of them"

"But you wont" said
nancy.

"I know it" said her
brother truthfully. "I
know how to work
this business and
those poor little
girls and their good

10370

brother don't, I suppose from my size they'll think I'm older than I am!"

He looked at the clock.

"I'll start on my way now for that crazy place. I know how to get there."

"Can I come along?"

George dear?"

"Yes for you are to be my assistant. The devils are afraid of you too!"

Their mother helped them on with their coats and they were soon riding down Haisted, towards

10371

North Ave. Then they took a North Ave car west to Virginia Ave, went to Jackson Ave by Bus, to Jackson Boul. and down that latter west ward as far as the chuffer would dare to drive.

When after some half hour's walk towards the East, they stood before the gate, his sister said:

"The sign reads that no one must enter saying those that do take their own risk."

"But it's only made out by these little

10372

Virgin girls and backed by Detective Burns' son George "I don't see we can't enter for the devils can't harm us. Not with what we got with us in the hatchets any how."

"But wouldn't we do wrong against the law to enter?" asked his sister.

"No, but if we are persons whom the devils can do harm to we'd be taking an awful chance," said her brother.

"But I'm sure the crazy things won't

10373

touch us."

They cautiously lifted the latchet entered and went hastily down the main path. Near the entrance of the building the boy said pointing:-

"There's that crazy Elm I heard about. I look out for it."

They approached the tree and looked it over very carefully. It was by now in nearly full leaf and despite the dangerous thing it was appeared a very beautiful tree.

"I'm going to work on that tree and see

10374

"If I can drive the
evil spirits from it" he
said. "If I don't succeed
in that then the source
of the trouble is in the
house."

He opened his suit case
and soon set it up. It
was something like
a tripod with a small
basin on top.

Along side he put
up a tall crucifix. Then
from a box he pro-
duced some pinkish
powder which he
poured, a spoonful
or more unto the
basin. Then he set
it afire so that the
smoke went toward